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PATENT

BO-98DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Wolfgang Streubel, et al.
Serial No: 10/066,084
Filed: January 31, 2002
For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING STRUCTURAL PARTS FOR AUTOMOBILE BODY CONSTRUCTION
Examiner: Sikyin Ip
Art Unit: 1742

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Before the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Replace claims 1-9 with the enclosed new claims 10-12.

Accordingly, in the instant divisional application, the claims are now directed to an apparatus for manufacturing elongate structural parts for automobile body construction.

Since the prior art does not disclose or suggest the relative adjustability of the induction element and the cooling unit, and a tool carriage which supports the induction element and the cooling unit mounted on a column so as to be movable vertically on the column, transversely of the column, and about the horizontal axis relative to the column, applicants submit that claims 10-12 are patentable.

Respectfully submitted,
FRIEDRICH KUEFFNER

Dated: February 27, 2002

Friedrich Kueffner
Friedrich Kueffner Reg. No. 29,482
342 Madison Avenue
Suite 1921
New York, N.Y. 10173
(212) 986-3114
Attorney for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 27, 2002.

By: *Friedrich Kueffner*
Friedrich Kueffner

Date: February 27, 2002

10. (New) An apparatus (for manufacturing elongate structural parts for automobile body construction, the structural parts having at least in regions thereof a high strength and a minimum ductility of 5% to 10%, the structural parts being configured to perform safety functions within an automobile body,) the apparatus comprising

- means for shaping a blank of hardenable steel in a soft state to form an elongate structural part;
 - means for positioning the elongate structural part in an upright position;
 - an induction element mounted so as to be movable in a longitudinal direction of the elongate structural part, and adapted to surround the elongate structural part;
 - a cooling unit configured to follow the induction element in the longitudinal direction;
- wherein
- the cooling unit and the induction element are position-adjustable relative to one another; and
 - wherein
 - the cooling unit and the induction element are connected to a tool carriage mounted on a column so as to be movable vertically on the column, transversely of the column and about a horizontal axis relative to the column.

*An
Contd.*

11. (New) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the cooling unit is comprised of several cooling elements arranged in a circumferential direction of the elongate structural part.

12. (New) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the cooling elements are position-adjustable relative to one another.